

Course Announcement

US Fish & Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center



Introduction to Structured Decision Making (CSP3171)

October 27 - 31, 2008 - March 2 - 6, 2009 - September 24 - 28, 2009

What will the course cover?

This course provides participants with a foundation in structured decision making in the context of natural resource management problems. A solid foundation in structured decision making begins with knowledge of current practices, theory, and noteworthy case studies from FWS and USGS. You will get hands-on experience using various decision tools including, decision trees, multiple objective ranking techniques, and linear programming. This course gives you the skills to develop structured approaches in order to make a recommendation or decision that is explicit, transparent, and clear. You will learn practical approaches to critical thinking, logic, reasoning, and structuring decisions that support your day-to-day work.

Course objectives:

- Recognize the distinction between how human and their institutions (including USFWS) often make decisions (descriptive decision making) and how decisions *could* be made using a formal approach (prescriptive decision making).
- Apply the fundamental elements of decision analysis, by decomposing a decision into constituent elements, developing those elements, and integrating them again to reach a recommendation.
- Understand the importance of value-focused thinking, and develop appropriate fundamental objectives for a particular decision context.
- Select the appropriate decision making tool for different types of situations and problems.
- Identify structured decision making practices that are feasible and beneficial to incorporate in your everyday work.

Who is the intended audience?

The target audience is FWS biologists (GS 9-11-12) and managers (GS 13-14) who have a tie to making decisions or have the responsibility to prepare materials for decision makers on natural resource issues and projects, and USGS scientists (GS 12-14) who wish to learn how to apply their scientific expertise in an applied decision context. It is recommended that participants have some comfort using computing programs, such as Excel. This course is considered a companion course to Adaptive Management and Principles of Modeling.

Who is teaching the material?

Principle instructors include scientists from the USGS and USFWS with a breadth of experience using a variety of structured decision making techniques.

How do I register? If you are part of Dept. of Interior register online at <http://doilearn.doi.gov/> (Be sure to choose the October 2008 session of CSP3171) All others should click on "Public Catalog Login". Search on "Structured Decision Making" or the course code "CPS3171", then click on the course title. Make sure you choose the OCTOBER session. Pull up class details and the button for the application. Fill out the application and note that at the bottom of the application there is a phone number for submitting credit card information.

Questions?

Registration or logistics: Contact Kendra Bond at 304-876-7449 / Kendra_bond@fws.gov

Course content: Karene Motivans at 304-876-7458 / karene_motivans@fws.gov